

1
2
3
4
5
6
7 RIGOBERTO SARMIENTO, et al.,
8 Plaintiffs,
9 v.
10 FRESH HARVEST, INC., et al.,
11 Defendants.

Case No. 20-cv-07974-BLF (SVK)

**ORDER FOLLOWING
SEPTEMBER 29, 2021 DISCOVERY
HEARING**

Dkt. Nos. 109, 112

12 The Court held a discovery hearing by Zoom on September 29, 2021. For the reasons
13 discussed at the hearing, the Court **ORDERS** as follows:

14 1. **Status of Defendants' September 27, 2021 Document Production:** Defendants have
15 produced approximately 1600 additional pages of documents, which Plaintiffs are
16 evaluating. The Court has reviewed the search terms used and custodians searched by
17 Defendants Fresh Harvest and SMD (Dkts. 110, 111) and is satisfied as to the scope of the
18 searches as it relates to the immediate issue of joint employment of Plaintiff Sarmiento.
19 Further requests by Plaintiffs for expedited discovery in advance of briefing on the pending
20 motions for summary judgment must relate back to existing document requests, be
21 narrowly focused, and realistically reflect the impending briefing schedule.

22 2. **FLAG documents (Dkt. 109):** The Court has reviewed Plaintiffs' supplemental
23 explanation regarding the relevance of FLAG documents as it relates to the issue of joint
24 employment. At the hearing, Defendants argued that FLAG was formed after Plaintiff
25 Sarmiento left the employ of Defendant Fresh Foods. In consideration of the submissions
26 and argument on this point, the Court **ORDERS** the production of FLAG Membership
27 Agreements as to any Defendant. Responsive documents already produced need not be
28 produced again. Plaintiffs' additional requests as set forth in Dkt. 109 are not relevant to

1 the pending summary judgment motions and are therefore **DENIED** without prejudice to
2 reasserting the requests at a later stage of litigation.

3. **Joint Submission re Requests for Production Nos. 3 and 4 (Third Set of Requests for**
4 **Production) (Dkt. 112):** The Court has reviewed the Parties' joint submission and taken
5 into consideration the arguments of counsel. Communications among Defendants on the
6 specified topics at any time during Mr. Sarmiento's employment, regardless of whether the
7 communications refer or relate to Mr. Sarmiento, are relevant to the issue of joint
8 employment by Defendants Fresh Harvest and/or SMD and the remaining Defendants
9 Fresh Foods and Rava Ranches and are proportional to the needs of the case. Accordingly,
10 the Court **ORDERS** Defendants Fresh Harvest and SMD to search the email accounts and
11 any other mediums of business communication among Defendants, of officers, directors,
12 and any other personnel responsible for the identified topics, including Messrs. Rigoberto
13 Robles and Oscar Ramos. Defendants are reminded of their obligation to produce all
14 responsive documents in their possession, regardless of language of origin. Documents to
15 be produced by **October 15, 2021.**

16 **SO ORDERED.**

17 Dated: September 29, 2021

18 
19 SUSAN VAN KEULEN
20 United States Magistrate Judge